

200th ISSUE

DAZED

& CONFUSED

ACCELERATE!

GUEST-EDITOR

BJÖRK

SHOWS YOU THE FUTURE

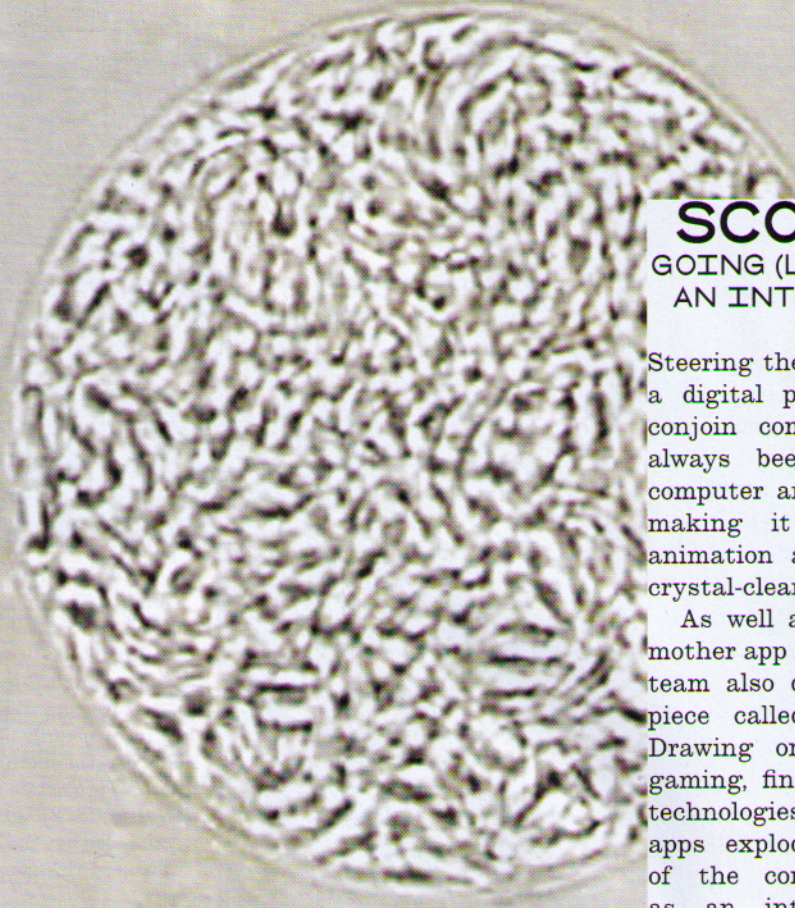
WITH THE MOST MIND-EXPANDING SCIENTISTS,
ARTISTS AND TECH-GEEKS IN THE WORLD

JOHN HARRIS

VIOLENTLY APPY

As Björk prepares to launch her multimedia music school onto an unsuspecting world, Rod Stanley visits her at home in New York to find out how iPad apps, the Icelandic banking crisis, and explorers that sleep on trees became part of her new projects

photography and artwork SAM FALLS
styling KATY ENGLAND



SCOTT SNIBBE

GOING (LITERALLY) VIRAL WITH AN INTERACTIVE ART GENIUS

Steering the *Biophilia* project is Scott Snibbe, a digital pioneer whose artwork seeks to conjoin computing and interactivity. "I've always been obsessed with making the computer an extension of the human mind, making it interactive using movement, animation and sound," he explains over a crystal-clear Skype connection.

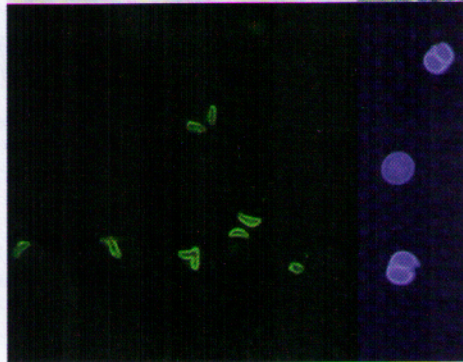
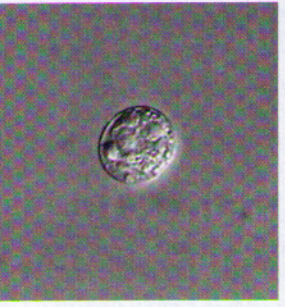
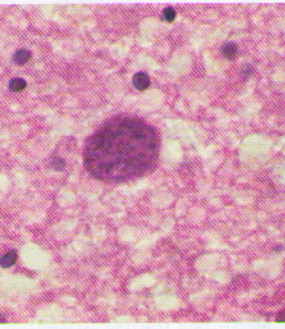
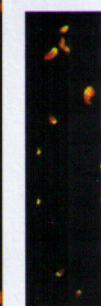
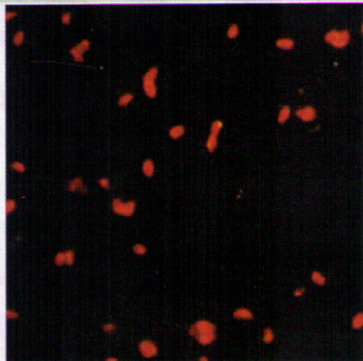
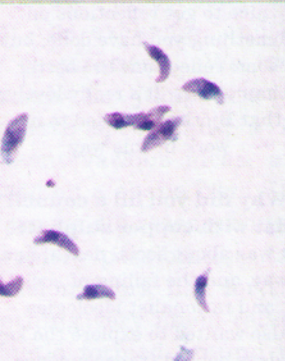
As well as working on the design of the mother app itself, and "Virus", Snibbe and his team also developed a third piece called "Thunderbolt". Drawing on the worlds of gaming, fine art and motion technologies, the universe of apps explode the metaphor of the computer interface as an interactive cinema screen. "When you're making computer software there's no limit in terms of physicality," he says. "You're basically working in a field of light with input and output, and the only restriction is your imagination."

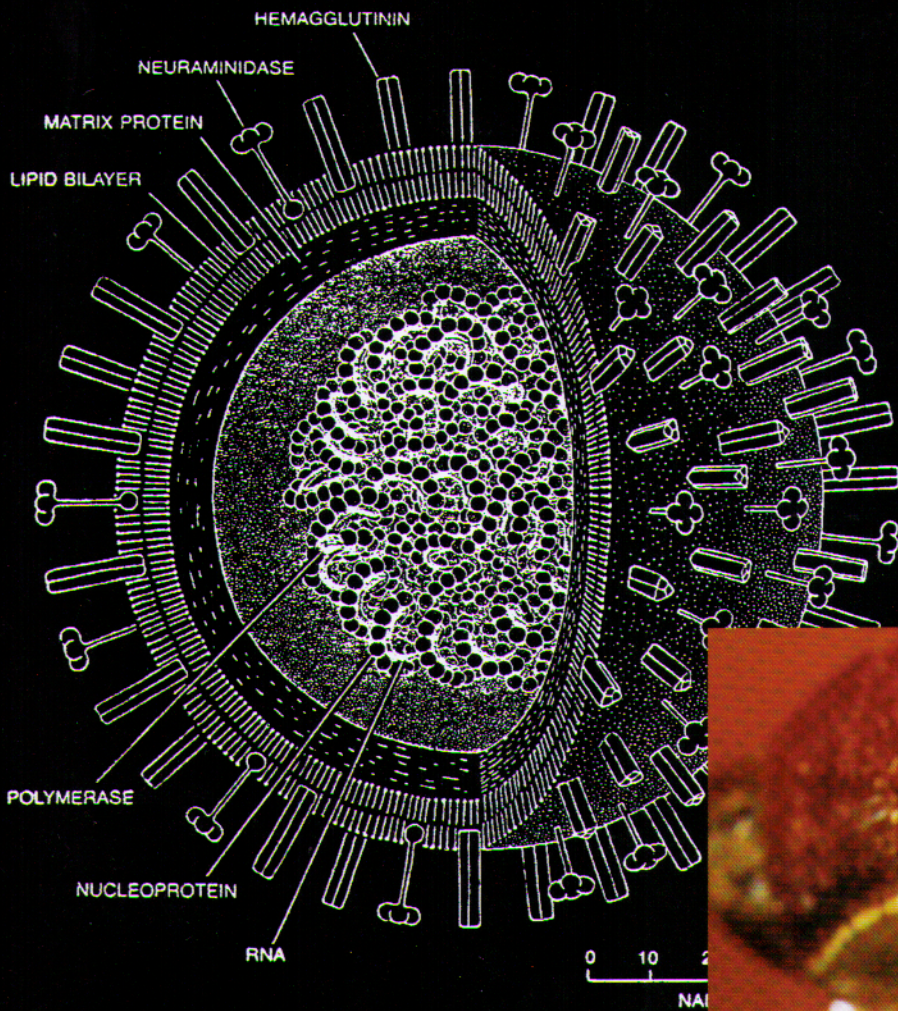
With a list of collaborators including alumni from Adobe, Electronic Arts and leading figures from biomedical animation, the goal has been to challenge assumptions about the segregation of art from science. "One way to define *Biophilia* is a love of nature," explains Snibbe. "More accurately, I think it's about the infinity of nature in all its scales, and how music relates to that. People forget that maths is a way of modelling nature, and they overlook the beauty and joy of that."

Drawing inspiration from Yoko Ono, Sol LeWitt, Jean Arp and John Zorn, the project has a high art feel with a democracy of access. "We wanted the suite to have an intimate feeling even though the subject matter is so wide in its vision. What I always try and communicate is the feeling of what it's like to be an artist - that pure free-flowing creativity. It's exactly the sensation you get when you tap into Björk's world so the whole project has a beautiful gravity at its core."

BJÖRK: "One of the first apps I bought was 'Bubble Harp' by Scott Snibbe - it was very inspiring to see him include both the complex and the simple capabilities of the touch screen. He shared my vision of merging the music and apps, made two of the apps, became the projects manager and will oversee the visuals live, where we will try to make people feel like they are inside the iPad, playing and listening to the apps."

Text STEPHEN WHELAN





FLU
 The deadly flu virus is a tiny sphere of RNA surrounded by a viral envelope which allows it to bind to and invade the body's cells. It then replicates and spreads, causing the symptoms of a runny nose, sore throat and aching muscles as it moves through the body.

Scientific captions
CHRIS HATHERILL



“It’s about the infinity of nature in all its scales, and how music relates to that. People forget that maths is a way of modelling nature, and they overlook the beauty and joy of that”

ZOMBIE SNAILS
 Of all the strange flora and fauna we share our planet with, few things are as unsettling as the ingenious parasites of the Leucochloridium genus. This charming little family of worms start life as a tiny larva which is eaten by snails. Once inside, it goes through a series of life stages before transforming into a brightly-coloured wormlike thing. It then makes its way into the poor snail’s eye tentacles where it pulsates and writhes to mimic a caterpillar. The unfortunate snail loses its natural aversion to light and makes its way out into the open – where birds mistake its parasitic invader for food and swoop down for an easy meal. The nauseating circle of life is complete, with the snail either dead or still infected and the bird full of parasites, all ready to reproduce and be spread far and wide via the bird’s droppings.

Photography **ALEX TEO KHEK TECK**